

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARIS 25181 01 OF 02 301250Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 COME-00

EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /066 W
----- 049073

R 301238Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3601

INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL LYON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 25181

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, FR

SUBJECT: IMPRESSIONS FROM THE NORD/PAS-DE-CALAIS

SUMMARY: IN RECENT VISIT BY POLITICAL COUNSELOR TO FRANCE'S TWO NORTHERN DEPARTMENTS, BOTH OPPOSITION AND MAJORITY POLITICAL FIGURES EXPRESSED PESSIMISM OVER THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE GOF'S PLAN FOR RESTIMULATING THE ECONOMY WILL PRODUCE THE DESIRED RESULTS. THERE IS LITTLE CONCERN IN THE AREA WITH FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES ALTHOUGH SOME OBSERVERS FEEL THAT THE ECONOMIC CRISIS MEANS A SETBACK TO THE GROWTH OF EUROPEANISM IN THE AREA. THERE IS EQUALLY WIDESPREAD ACCORD ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM THAT THE SOCIALISTS ARE THE MAJOR GROUND GAINERS IN THE LOCAL POLITICS AND THAT THIS WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN FUTURE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. AND THERE IS A RECURRING LEITMOTIF OF CONCERN OVER THE SPREAD OF BOTH VIOLENCE AND PORNOGRAPHY. END SUMMARY.

1. THE NORTH -- CRISIS BREEDS INSULARITY. ALTHOUGH
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 25181 01 OF 02 301250Z

THE TWO DEPARTMENTS OF FRANCE'S NORTHERN REGION HAVE

TRADITIONALLY FELT THEMSELVES CONCERNED BY FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, MOST OBSERVERS FEEL THAT THE ECONOMIC CRISIS IS TOO CLOSE TO HOME TO ALLOW THAT TRADITION TO CONTINUE. "IN A TIME OF BELT TIGHTENING," SAID LILLE'S SOCIALIST DEPUTY MAYOR PIERRE MAUROY, "IT'S HARD TO GET PEOPLE TO ACCEPT THE INEVITABLE ECONOMIC SACRIFICES INVOLVED IN BUILDING EUROPEAN INTEGRATION." MAUROY'S OBSERVATION WAS ECHOED BY A UNION LEADER WHO NOTED THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PORTUGAL, NO OTHER FOREIGN POLICY ISSUE AFFECTS UNIONS IN THE AREA (HE WAS SPEAKING BEFORE THE SPANISH EXECUTIONS).

2. ECONOMICS -- IT COULD BE WORSE: WHILE SEVERAL DISTRICTS OF THE REGION ARE SUFFERING FROM UNEMPLOYMENT CONSIDERABLY ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE, MOST ARE STILL AT THE STAGE OF WATCHING INEFFICIENT BUSINESS OPERATIONS CLOSING THEIR DOORS WHILE MORE MODERN ONES SURVIVE. THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT CRISIS OF THE NORTH IS IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY WHICH, DEPENDING ON THE CITY, CAN AFFECT UP TO 65 OF THE ACTIVE LABOR FORCE. WITH THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY SOLIDLY IMPLANTED AROUND LILLE, THE AREA HAS COME TO DEPEND HEAVILY ON THE PAYCHECKS COMING FROM THE MILLS. ANY CRISIS WHICH AFFECTS THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY CAUSES IMMEDIATE QUESTIONING OF THE REGION'S BASIC ECONOMIC PLANNING POLICY, AND THIS, IN TURN, CAN AFFECT PERCEPTIONS OF THE WISDOM OF GOF ECONOMIC PLANNERS.

3. POLITICS: THE SOCIALIST PARTY APPEARS TO BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE POLITICAL FORCE IN THE REGION. AS THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS OF 1977 DRAW CLOSER -- AND THEY ARE ALREADY AN ISSUE OF LOCAL POLITICAL PLANNING -- MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT IT IS THE SOCIALISTS WHO ARE BEST EQUIPPED TO CONTROL THE REGION. THE PS HAS DONE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARIS 25181 02 OF 02 301248Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 COME-00

EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /066 W

----- 049071

R 301238Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3602

INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL LYON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 25181

MASSIVE GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING. IT HAS INSTALLED ITSELF IN FACTORIES AND MILLS THROUGHOUT THE REGION AND IT HAS BUILT AN EFFECTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE MUNICIPAL COUNSELOR LEVEL. ALTHOUGH MOST OBSERVERS ANTICIPATE A STRONG MAJORITY CHALLENGE TO THE REGION'S LEADING POLITICAL FIGURE, SOCIALIST PIERRE MAUROY, THE CURRENT DEPUTY/MAYOR IS EXPECTED TO WIN HANDILY.

4. THE ATMOSPHERICS: SEVERAL POLITICAL LEADERS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER PORNOGRAPHY AND VIOLENCE, TWO THEMES WHICH THEY ALMOST ALWAYS LINK. WHILE THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT PEOPLE IN THE NORTHERN REGION ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THESE TWO ISSUES AND WHILE THERE EQUALLY CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT TOWNS WHICH HARDLY HAD MOVIE THEATERS AT ALL A FEW YEARS AGO NOW ARE SPECIALIZING IN 42ND STREET ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE MOMENT, ANGER OVER PORNOGRAPHY REMAINS ONLY A LEITMOTIF. PROPERLY EXPLOITED, IT COULD BECOME AN ANTI-GOF TOOL.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 25181 02 OF 02 301248Z

5. COMMENT: LILLE AND ITS REGION HAVE A HERITAGE OF TURBULENT POLITICS. SINCE THE 19TH CENTURY, COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS HAVE BEEN AT EACH OTHERS THROATS. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND OF STRUGGLE ON THE LEFT A STRONG NATIONALIST TRADITION HAS GROWN TO EXPRESS ITSELF IN THE GAULLIST MOVEMENTS. WITH ECONOMIC ISSUES EXPECTED TO DOMINATE POLITICS IN THE AREA FOR THE SHORT TERM, MOST OBSERVERS EXPECT VOTERS TO BE WORRIED ABOUT RADICAL CHANGE WHILE THEY SEEK AN ADEQUATE MEANS OF EXPRESSING THEIR DISCONTENT WITH THE GOF AND THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION. THE

ANSWER, VIEWED FROM LILLE, APPEARS TO BE A STRENGTHEN-
ING OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY AND AN INCREASED INTEREST
IN DIVERSIFYING THE REGION'S ECONOMY, AND A CERTAIN
SENSE OF NAVEL-GAZING.
RUSH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, PORNOGRAPHY, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS25181
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750338-0542
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975091/aaaaaakn.tel
Line Count: 174
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IMPRESSIONS FROM THE NORD/PAS-DE-CALAIS SUMMARY: IN RECENT VISIT BY POLITICAL COUNSELOR TO
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, EGEN, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006